

# Viral Gastroenteritis Care Plan

Residents Name ..... Room .....

**Problem:** - The resident has unexplained **vomiting and/or diarrhoea** & there could be an infectious cause.

**Goal:** Minimise the potential of cross infection and environmental contamination.

**Stool specimen:** taken .....

## Actions

### 1. **Communication** -

- Residents/relatives/visitors are provided with an information leaflet and information for visitors sheet. Visitors need not wear aprons or gloves unless performing personal cares. Visitors should be advised on effective hand washing after visiting the resident
- Residents requiring hospital admission – inform the admitting unit in advance. If not essential and the patient has diarrhoea, consider postponement until the diarrhoea has subsided. Also ensure the ambulance team (if applicable) is informed.

2. **Monitor** – Utilise a fluid balance and stool chart to monitor input and output.

3. **Hydration** - Ensure the resident is kept adequately hydrated and contact the GP if there are concerns

4. **Environment** - Single room with the door closed & care taken during bed making and cleaning to avoid/minimise dispersal of virus.

5. **Toilet facilities** - An en suite toilet or own commode should be provided and cleaned by staff after each use, using hot water and detergent or a detergent wipe followed by hypochlorite 1,000ppm (utilising manufacturers guidance).

6. **Cleaning / Decontamination** - The room requires a thorough clean daily using hypochlorite 1,000ppm (utilising manufacturers guidance) followed by hot water and detergent. Faecal or vomit contamination requires initial removal then hypochlorite 1,000ppm disinfection followed by hot water and detergent wash. Walls do not require washing and curtains do not require changing **unless** they are visibly soiled.

7. **Hand washing** - using liquid soap and warm water following all contacts with the resident or their immediate environment. Alcohol hand rub is not recommended as it is ineffective against certain types of infectious diarrhoea.

8. **Protective clothing** - Single use vinyl/nitrile gloves and plastic apron to be worn when in contact with any contamination, the resident and their immediate environment.

9. **Waste** - all contaminated waste to be disposed of into an infectious waste bag.

10. **Laundry** - all laundry should be treated as infected and placed in water soluble (alginate) bags prior to sending to the laundry room. Items should **not** be hand sluiced.

11. **Specimens** –Obtain a stool sample and label as instructed by the Infection Prevention and Control team Officer. Record the date collected on the top of this sheet and if there is an outbreak also record on the case register sheet.

**Remember Standard Infection Control Precautions for all residents**

